

# PA THOROUGHBRED REPORT

MARCH 2025  
ISSUE NO. 132

**FENTON FOREVER**  
SHOWN WINNING THE  
WAIT FOR IT STAKES  
AT PARX RACING  
12/30/2024



BY PENNSYLVANIA SIRE  
**PAT ON THE BACK**

EQUIPHOTO

## IN THIS ISSUE

- PAT ON THE BACK A PERFECT CHOICE FOR WYNTER
- MAXIMUS MERIDIUS POSSESSES PENNSYLVANIA POWER



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
HORSE BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION

LYDIA WILLIAM PHOTO

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Fantastic news for the Chapman Family and Pennsylvania as Smarty Jones was recently nominated to the Hall of Fame! It's been 21 years since America's Horse triumphed in the Derby and Preakness. This nomination is long overdue and you'll be able to take a trip to the past to relive the excitement when we send a video blast out to all our breeders and contact lists. Look for it the first week of March!

It's breeding season again and you can find registered PA stallions sired by Tapit, Curlin, Munnings, Street Sense, Speightstown, Medaglia d' Oro, Gun Runner, Good Magic and many more which includes 10 new sires for 2025. Go to [pabred.com](http://pabred.com) and check out the PA Stallion & Boarding Farm Directory on the home page and book your next, or first, PA-Bred. **Need a place to board and foal your mare? Please give us a call at 610 444 1050 as space is available.**

The third and final leg of the 2024 Stallion Series will be run in 2025, with purses of \$100,000 for 3yos and 3yo fillies on PA Day at the Races (date TBA). A \$50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series will be paid at that time – \$25,000 for first, \$15,000 for second and \$10,000 for third. The current leaders are posted in this issue.

We'll be having our first PA Yearling Show on June 21 at Brandywine Polo Club in Chester County. Four categories and a champion category will be offered with lots of prizes. You should have received show information and a registration form in the mail and online. Only \$50 to enter.

Domicile forms are mandatory and should have been completed by Dec. 1 or when your mare comes into the state if breeding back to a PA stallion, or within 14 days of a public sale. Again, if you need a place to board and foal your mare, please give us a call at 610-444-1050 as space is available.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless this year.

Wishing you a fantastic start to 2025, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Go PA!

*Brian Sanfratello*  
Executive Secretary



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*Congratulations!*

# SMARTY JONES

AND HIS CONNECTIONS  
ON MAKING THE  
BALLOT FOR THE  
NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF RACING'S  
HALL OF FAME



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
HORSE BREEDERS  
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*Wishing you the Best of Luck*

# Grades Matter

Equistar Stallions are Grade 1 all the way!

## Brody's Cause

*Giant's Causeway-Sweet Breanna (Sahm)*

Sire of Grade 1 winner **KALYPSO** (\$607,638), who won or placed in SIX graded stakes and sold as a broodmare prospect for \$2.1 million in 2022. Two-time G1-winning millionaire **BRODY'S CAUSE** is also sire of G3 winner **SITTIN ON GO** (\$291,353), **PALUXY** (\$273,570) and 16 additional stakes horses. \$3,500 LFSN



## Smarty Jones

*Elusive Quality-I'll Get Along (Smile)*

3YO Champion and multiple Grade 1 classic winner himself, **SMARTY JONES** has sired 32 black-type winners, including 3 champions, 25 graded stakes horses, among them G1 winners **BETTER LIFE**, **SMART D N A**, **BAMBA Y BAMBA**, **CENTRALINTELIGENCE**. \$3,500 LFSN



## Zozos **NEW FOR 2025**

*Munnings-Papa's Forest (Forestry)*

Graded stakes-winning millionaire and first-time-out winner with 7 victories in 15 starts. **ZOZOS** won by a total of 20 $\frac{1}{2}$  lengths, from 6 fur. to 1 $\frac{1}{16}$  mi., with **THREE 100+ Beyers** to his credit. He won the Grade 3 Ack Ack S, Hanshin S, Knicks Go Overnight S; placed second in Grade 2 Louisiana Derby and third in Grade 1 Churchill Downs S. \$2,500 LFSN

Call Rodney Eckenrode 302-236-3886  
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# PAT ON THE BACK

a perfect choice for Wynter BY NIKKI SHERMAN

**FENTON FOREVER**  
WITH BREEDER/OWNER  
DESMOND WYNTER  
AFTER WINNING THE  
WAIT FOR IT STAKES

Pennsylvania is the home of several exciting young stallions whose freshmen crops hit the track rolling in 2024. One of those sires is Pat On the Back, who as a racehorse became a millionaire in just 30 career starts, winning from six furlongs to a mile and an eighth. Eight of his nine wins were in stakes races and his greatest victory came in the \$300,000 Kelso Handicap (G2) at Belmont Park in 2019.

Upon retirement from racing, he was sent to Godstone Farm in Pa. It was there that Cristina Holmes first met Pat On the Back. She had previously worked in finance, but after having her youngest daughter she took a leap of faith and pursued a career change.

"I decided to get out of the office, and ended up working for Godstone Farm," she said. "I knew within months that this was my calling and exactly what I wanted to do."

Holmes now manages the son of Congrats and stands him at her family's Bonner Hill Farms in Littlestown, Pa., on behalf of owners Harold Lerner, AWC Stables and Nehoc Stables.



EQUIPHOTOS

Pat On the Back made a splash last fall when his sons Fenton Forever and Realin N Dealin nailed the exacta in the \$100,000 Wait For It Stakes at Parx Racing. Pat On the Back is available in 2025 for \$3,500 LFSN.

"His owners, who continue to be actively involved, decided we would all work together with the opportunity of me leasing Pat in 2021," said Holmes. "It is a great group and we made it work through hard work and dedication.

"Pat On the Back's first year I got to start him in the breeding shed at Godstone Farm. He has great, solid bone and he is built like a brick house, with his fantastic shoulder and a powerful rear end. He really stamps his babies with that same shoulder and rear end."

Breeder Desmond Wynter liked what he saw with Pat On the Back right away and scheduled a 2021 date with his prized broodmare Fairy Gray. Wynter noted that he was drawn to attributes like his racing versatility and conformation.

The stallion's first group of foals included Fairy Gray's first colt, a handsome chestnut named Fenton Forever. Wynter named the colt after John Fenton, a longtime beloved backstretch worker who had recently passed away.

"Fenton Forever was a special foal," Wynter remembered. "You could walk up to him in an open paddock filled with other young horses and put your hands around him. He would just stand right there. He grew up to be an easygoing horse who knows when it's time to run."

And boy can Fenton Forever run! He is undefeated in two starts for Wynter Racing Stable and trainer J. Tyler Servis, breaking his maiden by 3 ½ lengths in a juvenile maiden special weight and following that up with a scintillating score in the \$100,000 Wait For It Stakes by the same margin.

Fairy Gray has given Wynter quite the ride since she first caught his eye at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale. He looked at her catalog page and was immediately intrigued. She was a daughter of the royally-bred Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Cat Thief and a Pennsylvania-Bred to boot.

"Ever since entering the racing world in the early 1970s, my favorite things to do are look at bloodlines and nicks," he said. "I really liked Fairy Gray's bloodline, conformation and temperament. I also believed she would make a good broodmare."

So he kept an eye on the filly and when he noticed that she failed to meet her reserve, Wynter called the sales agent with an offer. He was successful. After Wynter decided it was time to make her a broodmare, he began his favorite pastime of researching breeding nicks. He focused on Pennsylvania stallions to take full advantage of the PA-Bred program. Pat On the Back was one of those stallions.

But first, Fairy Gray produced a gray filly by Well Spelled named Ell Gray who broke her maiden second time out by an impressive 5 ½ lengths. Ell Gray is now retired and will be bred this spring for a 2026 foal by none other than Pat On the Back.

Social Inclusion sired Fairy Gray's next foal, another gray filly named Gray Lightning. Wynter gave his grandson Hudson the



**DESMOND WYNTER  
WITH HOMEBRED  
(AND HALF SISTER TO  
FENTON FOREVER)  
GRAY LIGHTNING**

# PAT ON THE BACK (cont.)

honor of naming that filly. They knew she was fast, but how fast was a bit of a shock. She debuted at Parx Racing as a juvenile and she absolutely dominated while going gate to wire in front, ultimately winning by 6 ¾ lengths. Two starts later, Gray Lightning obliterated an allowance field by 14 ½ lengths at Parx Racing.

That race sent ripples of excitement through the racing world, with Wynter receiving interest in Gray Lightning. He begrudgingly decided to place her into a new digital sale being offered by Fasig-Tipton. She topped the auction, bringing a life-changing \$370,000 from Dubai-based NR Club.

"To this day, Hudson still has not forgiven me for selling his horse without his permission," Wynter admitted. "It did feel good to know that I bred a horse of such quality. I hope she does well with her new connections."

NR Club kept Gray Lightning with Servis at Parx Racing, where she took down another PA-Bred allowance field by 12 ¼ lengths. Keeping her in Pennsylvania was a smart decision and it also provided Wynter with additional breeders' awards. She next traveled to Saratoga Race Course and earned black type with a third in the \$150,000 Jersey Girl Stakes. Gray Lightning then went on a break, but has been breezing steadily down at Oaklawn Park this winter for her comeback.

Meanwhile, Fenton Forever has been enjoying a winter


vacation down south before he heads north in the spring. His connections have high hopes for the PA-Bred's sophomore campaign. He also has a Pat On the Back yearling full sister named Adel's Way and of course she is a PA-Bred.

"I was there when Fenton Forever won the stakes," Holmes fondly recollected. "It was not only exciting for Pat On the Back, but it was extra special because of John Fenton's family being able to attend the race. We were all in tears. So thank you John Fenton for looking down on us that day!"

Fenton Forever and Pat On the Back will indeed forever be in the hearts of Holmes and Wynter. In addition, both agree that the Pennsylvania breeding program is the best breeding program in the country.

Bursting with praise, Wynter eagerly shared, "In my opinion, the PA-Bred program is the BEST breeding program. The breeders' awards and bonuses offered for a PA-Bred are second to none."

Holmes also noted that the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association and its staff have been crucial to her success, even acknowledging that someday she aspires to join its board. "I think the PHBA has a lot of plans in the pipeline to help our future in racing. Hopefully I will be able to get involved and help with the future of racing because I truly believe in our PA program. With one of the highest returns in breeders' awards, Pennsylvania is one of the best in the nation." ■



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- Won from 6 fur. to 1¼ miles at Belmont, Gulfstream Park, Aqueduct, Parx, Penn National, including **Affirmed Success S** (by 3¾ lengths scoring 100 Beyer), **Hudson H** (by 8¾ lengths), **Chocolate Town S**.
- By **CROSS TRAFFIC** (Unbridled Song), G1-winning sire of 2YO Champion filly **JAYWALK**, and 4 additional graded winners—18 black type earners total



**\$3,500 LFSN**

*Cross Traffic—Mamie Reilly (Graeme Hall)*

Standing at **Timber Ridge Farm** Felton, PA

Inquiries to **John Fanelli 856-981-4441**



# PA Yearling Show

Brandywine Polo Club, June 21st, 2025  
10:00am – 3:00pm

## CATEGORIES, PRIZES & FEES:

- Colts & Geldings  
Non-PA Sired & PA-Sired
- Fillies  
Non-PA Sired & PA-Sired
- Champions  
8 horses, 4 male & 4 fillies

## PRIZES

\$1,000 each category  
60%, 20%, 12%, 8% plus 6 ribbons  
trophy for winner

## CHAMPION AWARDS

\$1,000 Winner, \$500 Reserve Plus Win Trophy  
PA Stallion Award – Trophy, Highest total  
points, schedule: 7,5,4,3,2,1 participant

Champion Breeder – Trophy  
Best Turnout - \$100 per 4 categories  
\$50 entry fee, \$75 late entry fee after June 1st

- *Additional incentive payouts for top four highest earning two and three-year-olds*

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## CLEAN-UP

Bring your own shavings (only) & cleanup

## JUDGE

Russell Jones

## VET & EMT ON SITE

Negative Coggins within past year  
EHVI vaccination past 7-90 days




## FOOD

Coffee & Donuts Provided  
Lunch Trucks on site



**PENNSYLVANIA**

HORSE BREEDERS  
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# 2025 Yearling Show Entry Form

## WHEN:

Saturday, June 21st, 2025,  
10:00am – 3:00pm

## WHERE:

Brandywine Polo Club 232 Polo Road,  
Toughkenamon, PA 19374

HORSE (sire & dam):

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BREEDER:

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CURRENT OWNER (if different from above):

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Please include and return  
payment with completed form

Payment: \$50 per horse before  
June 1st, \$75 after June 1st



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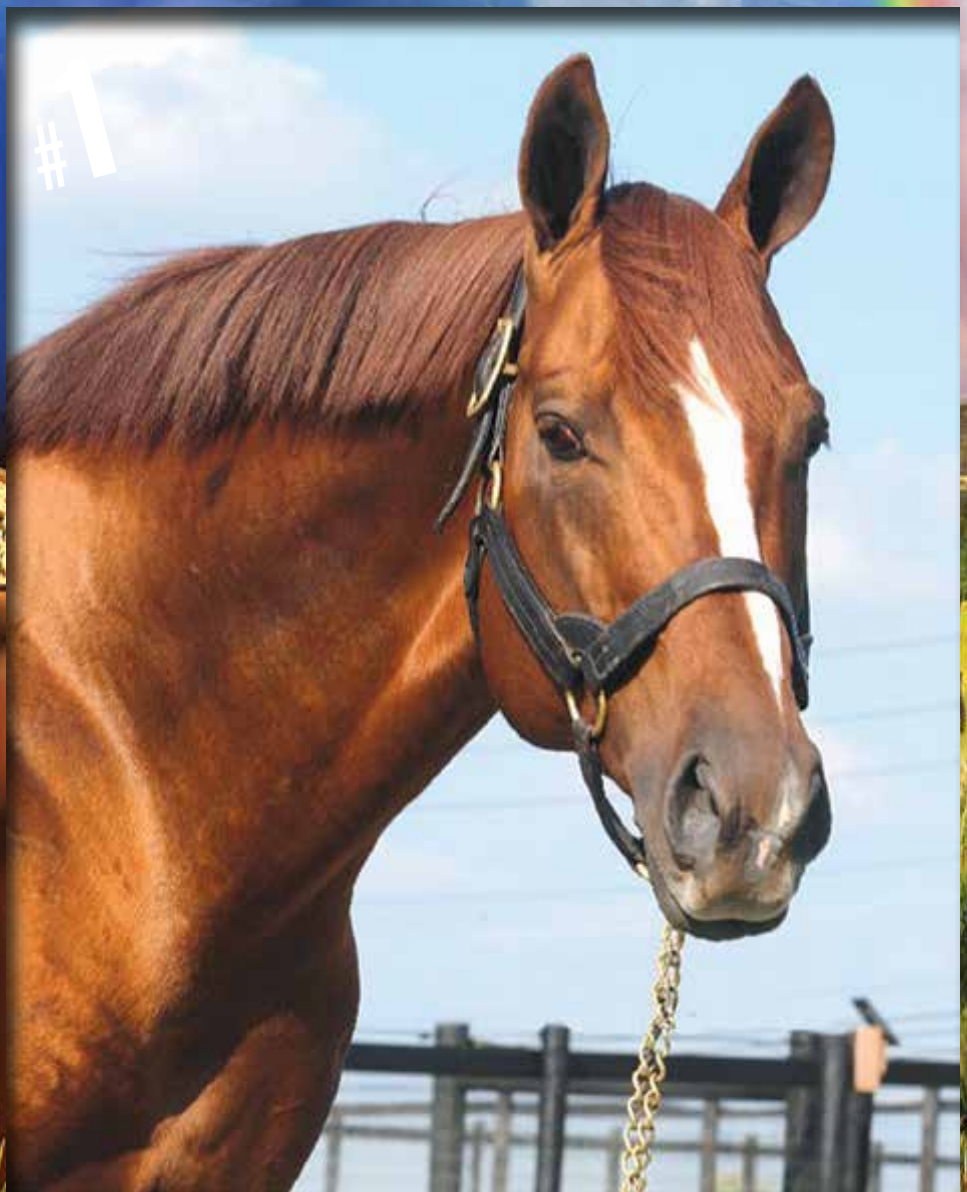
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# MAXIMUS MERIDIUS

*possesses*

# PENNSYLVANIA POWER

BY NIKKI SHERMAN

This winter a new Pennsylvania-Bred stakes winner burst onto the national stage when Maximus Meridius scored back-to-back victories in New York. The 4-year-old showed true grit while battling down the stretch at Aqueduct Racetrack with graded stakes winners Full Moon Madness and Runninsonofagun in both stakes, grinding out the wins while the other two finished out the trifectas in both the \$150,000 Gravesend Handicap on Dec. 28 and the \$175,000 Toboggan Stakes on Feb. 1.

His two closest competitors are by two of the top sires in the country, Into Mischief and Gun Runner. But Maximus Meridius boasts the young stallion Maximus Mischief as his father, and the latter is making his mark in the breeding shed in Pennsylvania, as a multitude of his offspring have found their way to the state.



**MAXIMUS MERIDIUS**  
SHOWN WINNING THE  
TOBOGGAN STAKES

## MAXIMUS MERIDIUS (CONT.)

Six years ago, Maximus Mischief looked to be on the verge of taking his home base fans from Parx Racing on a thrilling ride. He notched three victories from four career starts, including a score in the \$250,000 Remsen Stakes-G2 and a third-place finish in the \$350,000 Holy Bull Stakes-G2, with a combined win margin of 17 lengths. Maximus Mischief was one of the favorites for the Big Dance, but that dream came to an abrupt halt due to a soft tissue injury during a workout before the Florida Derby-G1.

Despite his short career, the good-looking son of Into Mischief was an immediate hit among breeders, where he stands at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky. The gamble was a success, as Maximus Mischief has turned into a stellar stallion. From just a few crops of racing age, he is already the sire of 13 stakes winners, including Grade 1 winner Raging Torrent.

And not only are his offspring precocious, they are also getting better with age. A perfect example is Maximus Meridius.

He broke his maiden by an electrifying 10½ lengths in his career debut as a 2-year-old at Parx and is now a stakes winner at 3 and 4.

Maximus Meridius was born in Pennsylvania at Westerly Farm in West Grove, the former site of Walnut Green Farm. Owner Ann LaPides is relatively new to the world of horse racing, but is very well-versed in the equine industry.

"Myself and Marie Legault, my farm manager, came from the hunter/jumper world," LaPides explained. "We do not race, nor do we even go to the track. We are strictly farm-based, focusing on the care and wellbeing of the horses that are with us. In addition to Thoroughbred broodmares, we also have layups for the racetrack and show ring, and retired horses from many different equine disciplines.

"The farm encompasses 100 acres; most of it large fields with excellent, deeply-rooted grass. We are fortunate to have this ideal location to take care of our horses, such as this part of Pennsylvania provides."

LaPides purchased the property from Mark Reid, a mainstay in the Mid-Atlantic region, and he has been a guiding light during Westerly Farm's journey into Thoroughbred racing. Reid suggested Maximus Mischief as the sire for LaPides' Quiet Virtue, who was not only a winner on the track but also competed over fences for Westerly Farm. The daughter of Quiet American is also the dam of two-time winner Stevie T (Commissioner), but the cross with Maximus Mischief was so nice that Quiet Virtue produced a full brother to Maximus Meridius who is now a 2-year-old.



**MAXIMUS MERIDIUS**  
SHOWN WINNING THE  
GRAVESEND STAKES

"It has really proven to be an excellent match," said LaPides. "Meridius was born the same year and in the same field as Uncle Heavy, Jeanne Marie and others that have gone on to have success at the track. He was easy to spot because of his blaze and friendly nature."

Reid was also the link between Westerly Farm and Maximus Meridius' racing connections. Reid's brother, Robert "Butch" Reid Jr., trains for owners LC Racing LLC, Cash Is King LLC, and Wellesley Stable. The group actually owned and trained Maximus Mischief himself, and have been highly successful in both breeding and purchasing the stallion's offspring to compete in Pennsylvania.

"Mark and Butch Reid have excellent owners, and I was very happy to be able to sell to them," LaPides noted. "We appreciate the work put in by all, and the commitment the owners have to their horses. Everyone at the farm is thrilled to see any of the horses born here go on to do well at the track."

Maximus Meridius began his career with that dominating victory as a juvenile and was competitive over the next several months, capturing an allowance at Parx in his third start, and finishing second in both the \$150,000 Bay Shore Stakes and \$150,000 Gold Fever Stakes in New York.

But after two disappointing efforts, he was gelded. It made a world of difference. Maximus Meridius, the gelding, became quiet

in the paddock and was highly focused. That gave him the ability to dig in and fight it out in stretch duels, where he would find his best stride late and dive under the wire in front. That's exactly what propelled him to his two straight stakes victories.

Maximus Meridius has finished no worse than fourth since his "equipment change", including second-place finishes in the \$300,000 Steel Valley Sprint Stakes at Mahoning Valley Race Course and the \$75,000 Salvatore M. DeBunda Sprint Stakes at home. His fourth-place finish was in the \$400,000 Gallant Bob Stakes-G2 when out-of-towner Bentornato beat him by just 3 lengths. Bentornato went on to run second in the \$2-million Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 in his very next start.

With eight of his 15 career starts occurring in the Keystone State, Maximus Meridius has given all of his connections even more to celebrate, thanks to his Pennsylvania-Bred status. In 2024, he earned an additional \$44,556 in state-bred awards.

.....  
"Mark and Butch Reid have excellent owners, and I was very happy to be able to sell to them,"  
LaPides noted.  
.....

"The PA breeder incentives are essential in keeping horse breeding in Pennsylvania," remarked LaPides. "With the breeder awards, small breeding businesses are able to afford to stay in the state, keeping not only the people who work at the farms employed, but also those who grow hay and straw, provide veterinary and farrier services, and a multitude of others." ■

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- ✓ Membership Dues due **March 31st**
- ✓ Iroquois Awards Banquet **May 9th**
- ✓ Annual Meeting 4:00pm **May 21st**
- ✓ Yearling Show **June 21st**

# ENTICED

Medaglia d'Oro – It's Tricky, by Mineshaft

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**ALLURE** 1st Tempted S., 2nd **Grade 2**  
Demoiselle S. at 2, Won Panthers S., 3rd  
Busanda S., at 3, earning \$303,795;  
**UNDER THE PALMS** (\$206,675) won  
\$150,000 Cardinal H.; **Tambo** (\$213,949)  
3rd **Grade 3** Santa Ynez S.; **Inveigled** 2nd  
James F. Lewis III S. at 2, 2nd Private Terms  
S., etc. at 3; 9-length MdSpWt winner at 2,  
2024 TOWNER TOO; etc.

**MULTIPLE GRADED SW OUT  
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MICHAEL BURNS

**2025**

**PENNSYLVANIA  
STALLION**

**2025 FEE: \$3,500  
\$2,500 FOR MULTIPLE BOOKINGS**

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR PA FOALING  
MARES AND STAKES PRODUCING MARES**

**STALLION  
SYNOPSIS:**



**MORE INFO  
ABOUT TYSON:**



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# 2025 PENNSYLVANIA **STALLION** & BOARDING FARM DIRECTORY



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**UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN STUD LLC**  
SMASHES BREEDER & STALLION AWARD  
RECORD WITH 2023 TOTAL OF \$868,865.90



## MARCH TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING SALE

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Sire	Dam	Dam Sire	Breeder	Consignor
43	2/23/23	DKB	F	Nyquist	Convinced	Tiznow	Jon A. Marshall	Woodside Ranch, Agent III
135	3/10/23	CH	C	Raging Bull (FR)	Fiduciary Values	First Samurai	Forgotten Land Investment Inc	Thorstock LLC
434	4/5/23	GRR	C	Global Campaign	Pisces	Malibu Moon	Joe Klaus & Brian Scharz	Silver Star, Agent
730	4/16/23	CH	C	More Than Ready	Amber Grace	Elusive Quality	Blackstone Farm LLC	Kings Equine, Agent IV

## FASIG-TIPTON FEBRUARY WINTER MIXED RESULTS

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Name	Sire	Dam	Sire of Dam	Breeder	Consignor	Purchaser	Price
91	3/3/24	B	F		Drain the Clock	Quiet Infemo	Quiet American	Joan A. Wilson	Vinery Sales Agent XX	Billy Williams	27,000
127	4/5/24	GRR	F	Silver Icicle	Blofeld	Untouchable U	Red Giant	Marshall W. Silverman	Marshall W. Silverman Agent	Golden Lion Racing, David Wade agent	50,000
356	4/3/21	B	F	Greavette	Astern (AUS)	Convertible	Forestry	Heart Hill Farms LLC	Groendale Sales Agent VIII	not sold	105,000

## FASIG-TIPTON DIGITAL SALE RESULTS

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Name	Sire	Dam	Sire of Dam	Breeder	Consignor	Purchaser	Price
7	4/3/21	B	F	Greavette	Astern	Convertible	Forestry	Heart Hill Farms LLC	Groendale Sales Agent V	Big Puppy	\$75,000
99	4/11/19	B	M	Golden Tabby	Golden Lad	Macroeconomics	Exchange Rate	Michael R. Anspach	Taylor Made Sales Agency Agent XV	CA1918	\$46,000
102	4/22/13	B	M	Hello Regina	Wilbum	Valid Goddess	Valid Appeal	Heart Hill Farms LLC	Penn Sales	Charles Ritter	\$5,500
139	2/27/23	DKB	F		Winchill	Pemaquid Sally	Talent Search	Danielle Marie	DM Performance Horses LLC	Glen Gaddy	\$6,000



Lydia A. Williams



# WINCHILL, TAPIT's #1 Son in 2024 Standing in Pennsylvania

PA's Leading 2-Year-Old Sire by Percentage of 2024 Stakes Winners -25% and by Average Earnings per 2YO starter \$25,458



Top PA Sire in 2024, **WINCHILL** is the sire of 2YO \$100,000 Miss Blue Tye S. debut winner **HONORABLE WIN** (\$75,200). Next out 2nd by 1/2 length \$100,000 Finest City S. to a KY sired More Than Ready filly. Stakes Winners **YOU MUST CHILL** (\$603,942) was on the board in 8 of 10 starts and **WINNING TIME** (\$239,060), SW at 2, 7 career starts 3-1-3 to 4, **100 E Speed 11/11/24** allowance win. Other 2024 leaders include: **WORD ON A WING** (\$347,718) won at Parx and on the board in 4 of 6 starts; **TEMPEST RISING** (\$136,052) 3 wins at Parx; 2YO winner by 4 3/4 lengths **VANAKA**; back-to-back 2024 winner **PRINCE OF CHILL**; etc.

# WINCHILL

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**WARRIOR'S REWARD LLC**  
TOTAL: \$927,518.75

**2024 RUNNER-UP**

**UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN STUD LLC**  
TOTAL: \$734,470.50

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2025  
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**Defeated Eclipse Award Winner and Breeders' Cup Sprint  
Champion Trinniberg along with Graded Stakes  
millionaire Private Zone**

**Won the Grade 3 Jersey Shore Stakes**

**Elected 2012 Parx 3-Year-Old Sprinter of the Year**

**Half-brother to Grade 1 stakes-placed millionaire Kobe's Back**

**Won or placed in 11 out of 17 starts**

**Fee \$1,500 LFSN**

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# PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

## TOBOGGAN S

AQU, \$175,000, 4YO/UP, 7F, 2-1.

## WON - MAXIMUS MERIDIUS

g, 4, Maximus Mischief–Quiet Virtue, by Quiet American. O-LC Racing LLC, Cash is King LLC and Robert E. Reid Jr., B-Westerly Farm (PA), T-Robert E. Reid Jr., J-Mychel J. Sanchez, \$96,250.

Maximus Meridius rolled into 2025 with the same energy he finished 2024, and recorded his second stakes win in a row in Aqueduct's \$175,000 Toboggan Stakes on Feb. 1.

Trained and co-owned by Butch Reid with LC Racing and Cash is King, the son of Maximus Mischief led at every call in the 7-furlong sprint, posting early fractions of :22.95 and :45.90, swept through 6 furlongs in 1:10.55, and fought off Runninsonofagun to win by a neck. The final time was 1:23.36, which resulted in a 98 Beyer.

Reid commented to NYRA officials after the race: "This is a horse that early in his career, he would kind of make the lead and hang, but now horses are coming to him and he's fighting them off and he has matured and come a long way. I think it's maturity, and the ultimate equipment change (gelding), has helped him a lot."

Gelded in the summer of 2024, Maximus Meridius has a three wins and two seconds in five starts since October. "He's turned into a completely different racehorse," Reid added. "He acted so stoic in the paddock pre-race and post-race, so he's a different horse now than he was."

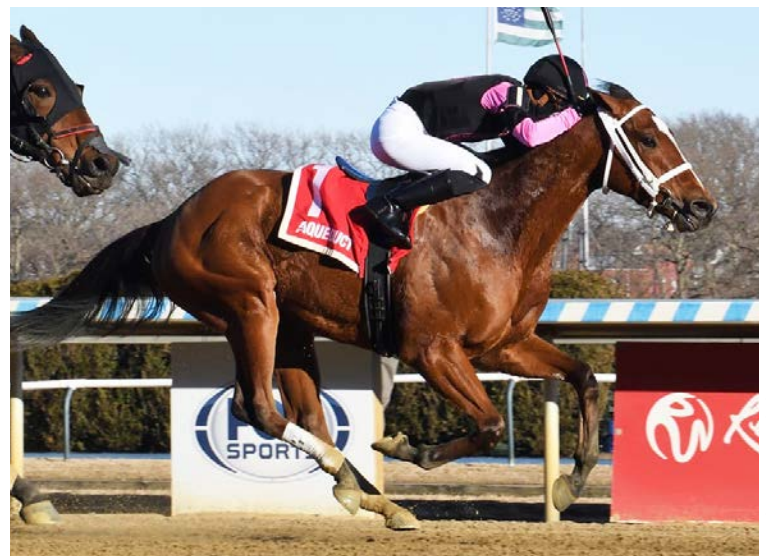
Maximus Meridius was ridden by Mychel Sanchez, who last rode him to a second-place finish in Aqueduct's Bay Shore Stakes last April. Sanchez described this year's effort: "It was beautiful. He won last time (nearly) wire-to-wire (under John Velazquez), he ran really good on the sloppy track but today we didn't have a sloppy track. Being in the one-hole, it was simple, if he breaks good, just take the lead and go on from there, but make sure to save enough because today we were going seven-eighths.

"I tell you what, he broke like a rocket," Sanchez added. "I didn't even have to use him, which helped me to finish up. I waited, waited, waited, he likes the competition to come to me, so I didn't want to open up too early. I just wait, wait, wait, then when they got next to me, it took him a little while to switch leads, but once he switched leads, he went on again with a good fight. He is a good fighter for sure."

Maximus Meridius exited 2024 with a victory in Aqueduct's \$150,000 Gravesend Stakes on Dec. 28. During his career, he's made 15 starts, winning five, finishing second or third in six others, while earning \$500,430. He returned after the Toboggan in a 7-furlong Parx allowance on Feb. 25 and finished second off a gutsy effort in which he was hounded from the start and missed by a neck to pace beneficiary Harp's Hot Corner, who stopped the clock 1:25.97.

Bred by Westerly Farm, Maximus Meridius is out of the Quiet American mare Quiet Virtue, a winner at 5½ furlongs who later raced for Westerly Farm over hurdles up to 2¼ miles. Maximus Meridius is her second named foal.

The mare has an unnamed Maximus Mischief 2-year-old colt now in Florida being broken. Bred to Golden Lad in 2024 she didn't produce foal, and is back in foal to Maximus Mischief. ■



NYRA/DURAND PHOTO

# PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

## WITHERS S,

AQU, \$250,000, 3YO, 1 1/8M, 2-1.

### 2ND - SURFSIDE MOON

c, 3, Malibu Moon—Crescent Lady, by Scat Daddy.  
(\$55,000 RNA 2023 KEESEP; \$60,000 2023 FTMOCT)  
O-Manor Stable & Mair Lee Stables,  
B-Equvine Farm LLC (PA), \$50,000.

## GULFSTREAM PARK SPRINT S

GP, \$125,000, 4YO/UP, 6F, 2-22.

### 2ND - CONCRETE GLORY

g, 6, Bodemeister—Take It Inside, by Disco Rico.  
(\$14,000 2023 FTMDEC) O-Big Frank Stable,  
B-Bodemeister Syndicate & Kyle M. Horlacher (PA), \$24,750.

## WIDE COUNTRY S

LRL, \$100,000, 3YOF, 7F, 2-22.

### 3RD - ICONA MAMA

f, 3, Maximus Mischief—Classe Signora, by Bernstein.  
(\$75,000 2024 OBSAPR) O-DeSales 85 LLC,  
B-J. Patrick Morell & Tanya Lobsiger (PA), \$10,000.

## GULFSTREAM PARK SPRINT S

GP, \$125,000, 4YO/UP, 6F, 2-22.

### 3RD - GORDIAN KNOT

g, 5, Social Inclusion—Mia, by Put It Back.  
O-Joseph M. Imbesi, B-Mr. & Mrs. Joe Imbesi (PA), \$12,375.



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# We would like to Congratulate

## 2024 PTHA AWARD CHAMPIONS

### PA-BRED WINNERS



**HONORABLE WIN**  
2YO Filly  
Breeder: Pewter Stable



**MAXIMUS MERIDIUS**  
3YO Male  
Breeder: Westerly Farm



**CONFIRMED STAR**  
Older Female  
Breeder: Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC

EQUIPHOTOS



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
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# By the Numbers: 2024

## Leading PA-Bred earners

- 1) Neechie Marie, \$888,988
- 2) Dontlookbackatall, \$436,975
- 3) Roses for Debra, \$383,188
- 4) I'm Very Busy, \$377,000
- 5) Maximus Meridius, \$346,280

## Number of PA-Bred stakes winners

Total 43

- 8 - 2-year-olds
- 9 - 3-year-olds
- 12 - 4-year-olds
- 14 - 5 and up

## Number of PA-Bred graded stakes winners—6

### Neechie Marie—

- \$1,000,000 Light & Wonder Ladies Marathon S-G3
- \$175,000 Beaugay S-G3

### Roses for Debra—

- \$300,000 Presque Isle Downs Masters S-G2
- \$250,000 Giant's Causeway S-G3

### Dontlookbackatall—

- \$200,000 Caress S-G3

### I'm Very Busy—

- \$300,000 Muniz Memorial Classic S-G2

### Our Shot—

- \$300,000 Woodford S-G2

### Uncle Heavy—

- \$250,000 Withers S-G3

## Top runners in 2024 by lifetime earnings

- 1) Neechie Marie, \$1,154,688
- 2) Smooth B, \$1,045,097
- 3) Morning Matcha, \$1,035,820
- 4) Beren, \$944,890
- 5) Ruby Bleu, \$939,169

## Leading breeders of PA-Bred stakes winners

### Gregory and Caroline Bentley Breeders (4):

Caprice, Late Frost, Stern Chaser, Trevesso

### Warrior's Reward LLC (3): Candy Reward, The Boy's Warrior, Twilight Dancer

Barlar LLC (2): Drum Roll Please, Simply Joking

### Blackstone Farm LLC (2): Roses for Debra, Rosie's Alibi

### Joe Imbesi (2): Get Set, Gordian Knot

## Leading PA sires\*

- 1) Cloud Computing, \$4,250,462
- 2) Enticed, \$3,220,140
- 3) Warrior's Reward, \$3,185,961
- 4) Uptowncharlybrown, \$2,770,052
- 5) Weigelia, \$2,612,862

## Leading PA sires by number of stakes winners

Enticed - 4

Warrior's Reward - 4

Wicked Strong - 3

Brody's Cause - 2

Weigelia - 2

## Leading PA sires of 2-year-olds

- 1) Cloud Computing, \$474,054
- 2) Warrior's Reward, \$406,548
- 3) Brody's Cause, \$370,236
- 4) Weigelia, \$213,419
- 5) Enticed, \$190,971

*\*Includes international runners*



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